

***FOR MEDICARE ELIGIBLE, OR SOON TO BE ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEES ONLY***

**Important Notice From Benton County About Your Prescription Drug Coverage and Medicare**

Please read this notice carefully and keep it where you can find it. This notice has information about your current prescription drug coverage with Benton County and prescription drug coverage available for people with Medicare. It also explains the options you have under Medicare prescription drug coverage and can help you decide whether or not you want to enroll.

1. Medicare prescription drug coverage became available in 2006 to everyone with Medicare through Medicare prescription drug plans and Medicare Advantage Plans that offer prescription drug coverage. All Medicare prescription drug plans provide at least a standard level of coverage set by Medicare. Some plans may also offer more coverage for a higher monthly premium.
2. Benton County has determined that the prescription drug coverage offered by the Benton County is, on average for all plan participants, expected to pay out as much as the standard Medicare prescription drug coverage will pay and is considered Creditable Coverage.

Because your existing coverage is on average, at least as good as standard Medicare prescription drug coverage, you can keep this coverage and not pay extra if you later decide to enroll in Medicare prescription drug coverage.

Individuals can enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan when they first become eligible for Medicare and each year from November 15th through December 31st. Beneficiary's leaving employer coverage may be eligible for a Special Enrollment Period to sign up for a Medicare prescription drug plan.

You should compare your current coverage, including which drugs are covered, with the coverage and cost of the plans offering Medicare prescription drug coverage in your area.

If you do decide to enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan and drop your Benton County prescription drug coverage, be aware that you and your dependents may not be able to get this coverage back.

Please see a description of the prescription drug coverage and plan provisions under the Benton County Health Plan that appear in your plan document and summary plan description.

If you drop or lose your coverage with Benton County and don't enroll in Medicare prescription drug coverage after your current coverage ends, you may pay more (a penalty) to enroll in Medicare prescription drug coverage later.

If you go 63 days or longer without prescription drug coverage that's at least as good as Medicare's prescription drug coverage, your monthly premium will go up at least 1% per month for every month that you did not have the coverage. For example, if you go nineteen months without coverage, your premium will always be at least 19% higher than what many other people pay. You'll have to pay this higher premium as long as you have Medicare prescription drug coverage. In addition, you may have to wait until the following November to enroll.

NOTE: You will receive this notice annually and at other times in the future, such as before the next period you can enroll in Medicare prescription drug coverage, and if this coverage through Benton County changes.

More detailed information about Medicare plans that offer prescription drug coverage is in the "Medicare and You" handbook. You'll get a copy of the handbook in the mail every year from Medicare. You may also be contacted directly by Medicare prescription drug plans. For more information about Medicare prescription drug plans:

- Visit [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov)
- Call your State Health Insurance Assistance Program  
(see your copy of the Medicare & You handbook for their telephone number for personalized help)
- Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

For people with limited income and resources, extra help paying for Medicare prescription drug coverage is available. Information about this extra help is available from the Social Security Administration online at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov) or you can call them at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

Remember, keep this notice. If you enroll in one of the new plans approved by Medicare, which offer prescription drug coverage, you may be required to provide a copy of this notice when you join to show that you are not required to pay a higher premium amount.

Date:	09/01/2015
Name of Entity/Sender:	Benton County Human Resources
Contact Office/Title:	Robin Stout, Training and Benefits Coordinator
Address:	215 E. Central Ave., Bentonville, AR 72712
Phone Number:	479-271-1091